DETAILED ACTION

The instant application 10/599,761 is presented for examination by the examiner. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 1-4, 6-23 and 31 are pending.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ronald Liu on 10/18/10.

Claim 14 is replaced with this version:

Claim 14.   A method, performed at a gateway node forming a gateway between a first environment and a second environment, of using the Host Identity Protocol (HIP) to at least partially secure communications between a first host operating in the first network environment and a second, HIP-enabled, host operating in the second network environment, the method comprising:

associating an identifier with the first host at the gateway node;

storing the identifier at the gateway node;

sending the identifier to the first host;

receiving a session initiation message from the first host, where a source
address of the session initiation message comprises the identifier, and where the
session initiation message indicates that a destination of the session initiation message
is the second host;

using the stored identifier to negotiate a secure HIP connection to the second
host;

wherein the identifier is a look-up identifier associated with a HIP identity tag
generated for and associated with the first host at the gateway node, allowing the HIP
identity tag for the first host to be retrieved at the gateway node using the look-up
identifier;

wherein the HIP identity tag is generated from a key pair; and

wherein the key pair which is stored in the gateway node for use during
subsequent HIP communications between the gateway node and the second host.

Response to Amendment

The present claim amendments overcome the previous 35 USC §103 rejections.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art is silent in teaching singularly or in combination the limitation "sending the identifier to the first host wherein the first host is not HIP enabled and the secure HIP connection is negotiated between the gateway node and the second [HIP-enabled] host" in conjunction with all of the other claim requirements as recited by independent claims 1 and 31.

The prior art is silent in teaching singularly or in combination the limitation "associating an identifier with the first host at the gateway node, sending the identifier to the first host wherein the identifier is a HIP identity tag and using the stored identifier to negotiate a secure HIP connection to the second host" in conjunction with all of the other claim requirements as recited by independent claims 10 and 23.

The prior art is silent in teaching singularly or in combination the limitation "wherein the identifier is a look-up identifier associated with a HIP identity tag ["generated from a key pair"] and "generated for and associated with the first host at the gateway node"…, "wherein the key pair is stored in the gateway node for use during subsequent HIP communications between the gateway node and the second host" in conjunction with all of the other claim requirements as recited by independent claim 14.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6-23, and 31 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL R. VAUGHAN whose telephone number is (571)270-7316. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:30am - 5:00pm, EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. R. V./
Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/William R. Korzuch/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2431